

Tournament News



Fisheries Updates - Cathy Martin

Summer 2012

Regarding northern snakeheads in Delaware waters...

In the Nanticoke, two northern snakeheads were taken by a bow angler in mid-March in Deep Creek just upstream of the Rt. 13 bridge. Both were adults about 26 inches long and weighed 5.7 and 6.3 lbs. A bass angler caught a third snakehead in mid May just downstream near the old Flagship restaurant. It was almost 27.5 inches and weighed just over 7 lbs. All three fish were turned over to us for the collection of biological data. The fish were 3 and 4 years old. Genetic samples were collected for comparison with other populations. Some electrofisher sampling was conducted in that area of the Nanticoke and in Broad Creek where a snakehead was collected in 2010. No fish were collected during these limited surveys.

In Becks Pond, sampling was conducted via electrofisher in April and May but no snakeheads were observed. However, one was reported caught and killed in early May. Another was caught in mid-June and retrieved from the angler. That fish was 27 inches and weighed about 6.6 lbs. We plan to sample Becks next month when snakehead spawning should be in progress to look for adults and schools of fry.

Signs asking anglers to report all catches of northern snakeheads have been posted at access areas along the Nanticoke River system, at Becks Pond, and along Nonesuch Creek. We would like to retrieve any specimens for the collection of biological data. Anglers who would like to keep the fillets may have them after the fish is weighed.

Tidal largemouth bass: Adult largemouth bass were collected from Broad Creek for use as brood fish for the tidal bass stocking program. A total of 24 males (ave length 14.8 inches) and 18 females (average 16.3 inches) were retained. The total weight of the females was 49 lbs. These fish were taken to an aquaculture facility and allowed to spawn naturally. The adults will be returned to the Nanticoke and about 8,000 fingerlings stocked in late July. Six large grass carp (39-47 inches) were collected and removed from the system also.

The new Cedar Creek Boat Ramp facility near Slaughter Beach was opened for public use June 8. The facility features eight 16-foot wide concrete launch lanes, five full-floatation boarding docks, one full-floatation courtesy dock and a large parking area. The old ramp closed for construction of the new facility in late November 2011. *"This project is part of DNREC's Bayshore Initiative, a landscape approach to restore and protect fish and wildlife habitat, increase volunteer participation in habitat stewardship projects, enhance low-impact outdoor recreation and ecotourism opportunities, and promote associated environmentally compatible economic development."*

Telephone numbers of Interest

For tournament reports:

- Cathy Martin, 302-735-8658 ; catherine.martin@state.de.us
- Jared Jacobini, 302-735-8661 ; jared.jacobini@state.de.us
- For tournament permits: Carol Gondeck, 302-739-9913
- **Fish Tag Hotline:** 302-653-2887, leave name & phone no.

Fish & Wildlife Enforcement Agents:

New Castle & Kent Counties:

302-739-6139

Sussex County: 302-855-1901

Report Violations: 302-739-4580

Or 1-800-523-3336

24-hour Enforcement Number
for Environmental Complaints

1-800-662-8802

Operation Game Theft :

1-800-292-3030

Permit applications:

www.fw.delaware.gov/

Click on Fisheries, Go to Recreational Fishing, at top of page—App. for fishing events; under bass, see Tournament report form or tag return forms.

Delaware Division of Fish & Wildlife Photo Contest



Join Fish & Wildlife in recognizing Delaware's hunting and fishing traditions! Submit a photo that represents the 2012 theme:

Carrying on the Tradition

*This contest is part of Delaware's
Children in Nature Initiative.*



Delaware Division of Fish & Wildlife Photo Contest

Eligibility

- The contest is open to all Delaware residents regardless of age.
- A maximum of three entries per person.
- Photos must depict youth involved in hunting or fishing activities. May also include adults (e.g., grandfather fishing with grandson). Preference will be given to photos that best depict the 2012 contest theme: *Carrying on the Tradition*.

Photo Requirements

- Photographs must be taken in Delaware.
- Photos must be submitted as 8x10 inch prints on photo paper. Do not submit in frames or mattings. No markings, signatures or initials should be on the front or back of the photo.
- Normal processing of RAW image files and minor adjustments to color and contrast are acceptable, as is minimal cropping. HDR and focus stacking are permitted as long as manipulation is disclosed upon entry. Nothing should be added or taken away (aside from dust spots).
- Entrants must hold all rights to the photograph and must not infringe on the rights of any other person or submit images that involve the unlawful harm of fish or wildlife species, or damage to the environment.

How to Enter

- Send photo entries to: DNREC, Division of Fish & Wildlife, 89 Kings Highway, Dover DE 19901, Attention: Amanda Belford.
- All entries must include a completed and signed entry form and photo release form (found on the website below).

Deadline

Contest	Open	Closing Deadline*
Fishing	April 1, 2012	September 15, 2012
Hunting	September 1, 2012	January 12, 2013

**All entries must be postmarked by closing deadline.*

Prize

Winning hunting and fishing photos will be featured in or on the cover of the 2013 Hunting Guide and Fishing Guide, and possibly in other DNREC and/or Division of Fish & Wildlife publications.

Questions

Contact Amanda Belford at 302-739-9911 or amanda.belford@state.de.us. Visit the website for more details:

<http://de.gov/fwphotos>

Invasive Species: Don't Spread Them!

Invasive species have the ability to markedly change the ecological community that you as an angler depend on for your recreational activities. The last thing you want to do is to help spread them. Whether you are a boater or shore angler, there are several steps you can take to help stop the spread of invasive aquatic species such as: diseases, parasites, plants, invertebrates, or fish.

- Inspect your boat and trailer. Remove aquatic plants and animals from all parts of your boat, trailer, and accessory equipment. Make sure to dispose of this material in the garbage either at home or at a handy garbage can near the water access area.
- Drain your boat including the bilges, live wells, and other containers before leaving the water access area.
- Do not transfer water from one water body to another.
- Never release water garden plants, live bait or aquarium pets into any waters.
- Wash your boat and trailer thoroughly with tap water when you get home. Make sure to flush water through your motor's cooling system, live wells, and other areas that hold water.
- Allow your boat to dry for a minimum of three days in a sunny location before transferring it into a new water body.

These tips come from the Pennsylvania SeaGrant, [Clean Boating Tips](#)



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Fisheries Section
4876 Hay Point Landing Rd
Smyrna De 19977

On the Web

www.fw.delaware.gov/

Volunteer Opportunity

Delaware State Fair

Join us as we educate Fair visitors about Delaware's wildlife and habitats!

Friday, July 20 – Saturday July 28

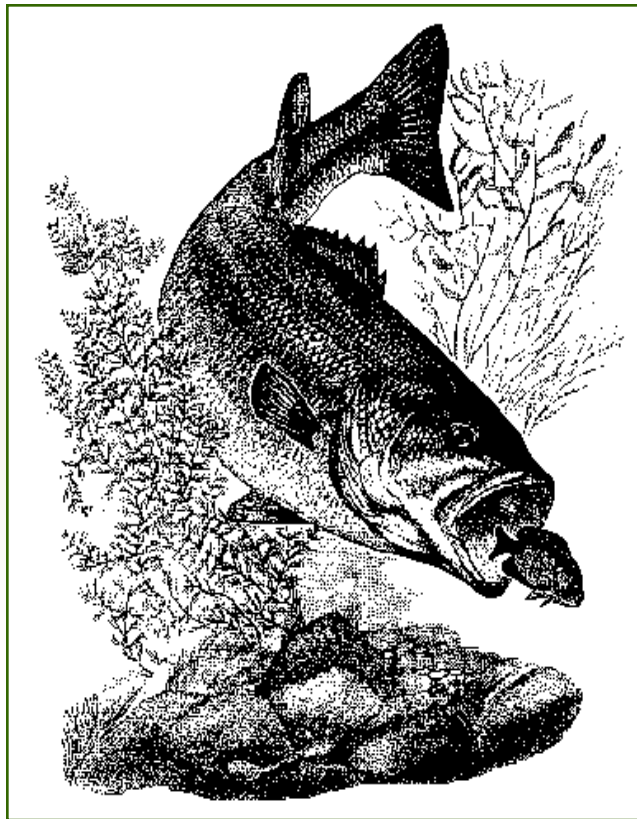
Location: , Fish & Wildlife Exhibit Room – DNREC Building (near ice rink).

Event Description: Enjoy going to the State Fair? Have a hankering for habitats? An affection for animals? Then this is a volunteer opportunity for YOU! Each year, the Division of Fish & Wildlife presents its unique Wildlife Exhibit as part of the DNREC exhibit at the DE State Fair. This popular exhibit provides viewing opportunities and cool fun facts about a variety of the state's wildlife – including bobwhite quail, ducks, a live fish pond, turkeys, and aquariums with a variety of aquatic critters. The Division is looking for volunteers to assist with manning the exhibit, which involves monitoring animals and interacting with visitors to the room. Information on the wildlife species will be provided ahead of time.

The exhibit will be open from 1pm – 8pm each day, with the exception of July 24 (Healthy Kids Day) and July 26 (Governor's Day) in which it will be open from 10am – 8pm.

Age Requirement: Volunteers must be at least 16 years old. Youth under the age of 18 must provide a parental consent form which can be found on the Fish & Wildlife volunteer website: www.fw.delaware.gov/volunteers.

Contact: For more information or to volunteer, contact Lynne Staub at 302-735-3609 or lynne.staub@state.de.us.



Garrison Lake Footbridge

A footbridge joining the two access areas at Garrisons Lake has recently been completed. The footbridge provides greater safety for anglers moving from one side of the pond to the other and also offers access for shore anglers. It was constructed using Sportfish Restoration funding from the US Fish and Wildlife Service.



Footbridge looking from north lot towards boat ramp on south shore.